REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 10, 2004. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 6, and 11 are in independent form. Claims 1, 6, 11 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, and Claims 2, 7, and 11 have been amended as to matters of form and grammar. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,161,115 (*Ohanian*), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,640,577 (*Scharmer*), and Claims 5, 10, and 15 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ohanian* in view of *Scharmer* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,451,900 (*Mayer et al.*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 6, and 11 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a form editing method of editing composite form data to be synthesized with field data, the composite form data being obtained as a combination of component form data. A component form data generation step generates component form data including a plurality of field attribute data, each field attribute data defining an attribute of the field data. A page of the composite form data comprises a plurality of component form data. A form data storing step stores composite form data in a form data storage means. The composite form data contains a plurality of the component form data generated in the component form data

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generation step in a predetermined order in one page. A field list display step displays each field attribute data of a plurality of component form data, which is contained in a page of interest of the composite form data stored in the form data storage means, with each serial number as a list.

The field list display step further comprises the steps of: (a) loading, as component form data of interest, one of the component form data contained in the composite form data of one page in the predetermined order; (b) incrementing the serial number in accordance with a field order of the field attribute data contained in the component form data of interest loaded in step (a); and (c) displaying the field attribute data contained in the component form data of interest and the serial number incremented in step (b).

Among other important features of Claim 1 are that a page of the composite form data comprises a plurality of component form data and that each field attribute data of the plurality of component form data, which is contained in a page of interest of the composite form data stored in form data storage means, is displayed with each serial number as a list. By virtue of this feature, the cumbersome and time-consuming process of finding the relationship between a specific field displayed in the list of fields and a corresponding field in the component form, especially when the component form has a large number of fields, is overcome. The present invention, as defined by independent Claim 1, ameliorates this problem because each field attribute data of a plurality of

component form data included in a composite form data can be displayed as a list having a

serial number, as depicted in Figure 12.[1]

        Ohanian relates to a media editing system, and in particular, to a non-linear

motion picture editing system that includes storage for a machine-readable composition

made up of scenes separated by transitions. The *Ohanian* system can identify to an effect

generator a scene in the composition and receive a modified version back from the effect

generator. It can read machine-readable information associated with the modified version,

and automatically reinsert the modified version into the machine-readable composition in

synchronism with the position in the composition that the scene occupied, based on the

machine-readable information. The *Ohanian* system can also associate versions of the

scene with the scene and display to a user a list of identifiers of the versions in response to

a user command that references a portion of a timeline, and can respond to a selection

command from the user to select one of the versions to be a default version for the

composition.

        Ohanian discusses displaying identifiers of versions of a motion picture

scene. However, nothing has been found in *Ohanian* that would teach or suggest a page of

the composite form data comprising a plurality of component form data and that each field

attribute data of the plurality of component form data, which is contained in a page of

interest of the composite form data stored in form data storage means, is displayed with

each serial number as a list, as recited in Claim 1.

1/It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the
described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Ohanian*, taken alone.

The Office Action cites *Scharmer* as overcoming the deficiencies of *Ohanian*, and in particular disclosing a form editing method of editing composite form data to be synthesized with field data. *Scharmer* relates to a data processing system including automated form generation which uses data displayed at a predetermined position on a data terminal display screen and a data processing function selector to automatically retrieve a pre-established form stored in a data processing system. The form includes a number of uncompleted fields. The data processing system retrieves at least one datum from at least one data field displayed on the screen, and automatically inserts the data in a predetermined uncompleted field of the form. The partially or fully completed form is then stored for later retrieval, updating and printing by the data processing system.

Scharmer discusses a technique for editing form data to be synthesized with field data. That is, *Scharmer* discusses a technique for inserting data 1 to data n into one form 116. However, *Scharmer* is silent with respect to inserting data into a composite form. Moreover, nothing has been found in *Scharmer* that would teach or suggest a page of the composite form data comprising a plurality of component form data and that each field attribute data of the plurality of component form data, which is contained in a page of interest of the composite form data stored in form data storage means, is displayed with each serial number as a list, as recited in Claim 1.

Therefore, even if *Ohanian* and *Scharmer* were to be combined in the manner proposed in the Office Action, assuming such combination would even be

permissible, the resulting combination also would fail to teach or suggest at least those features of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over *Ohanian* and *Scharmer*, whether considered separately or in combination, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a).

Independent Claims 6 and 11 are apparatus and computer program product claims respectively corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over those references for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.
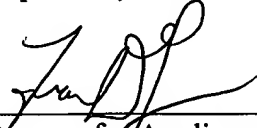
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicants
Frank A. DeLucia
Registration No.: 42,476

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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